

Application No. 10/605,624
Amendment dated September 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2005

Docket No.: 22137-00003-US1

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification with the following replacement Abstract. A Replacement Abstract of the Disclosure is provided as an attachment to this Amendment.

A parallel engine and transmission drive arrangement with application to both land and marine vehicles reduces the large moment arm and moment about the rear axle in the case of land vehicles, and ~~improves~~ provides for trim and stability and ~~more~~-compact arrangement of the drive arrangement in the case of a marine vessel. The arrangement is applicable to, ~~for example,~~ buses, tractor-trailer rigs, towing, dump trucks, garbage trucks, concrete trucks, fire trucks, recreational vehicles, and boats or ships. In one aspect, the engine and transmission are laterally arranged in a parallel manner. This ~~significantly~~ arrangement shortens the longitudinal distance necessary in rear-mounted engine designs from about 120 inches to as little as 54 inches. The large moment arm found about the rear axle in conventional rear-mounted engines is ~~significantly~~ thereby reduced, and the transfer case performance requirements are relaxed, resulting in a transfer case with ~~less~~ reduced bulk and weight.